

superiority, as many of the instances quoted show. Conrad and Joseph both give us striking examples, and it needs no psycho-analyst to see the sense of inferiority behind their bombast. Theobald's contempt for other people's drawings, and his curiously deliberate destruction of the labels the other children had written for the schoolroom, very probably arose from an acute sense of his own relative ineffectiveness.

Laurie's unfortunate attack on the unoffending Priscilla must have arisen in the same way. The push he gave the ladder on which she stood must have expressed all the bitter exasperation he felt against the boys who had tormented him by saying " pop ", and against his mother who had taunted him with being cowardly and helpless. (Their saying " pop " in his ear was the worst he had suffered from them, and he was the equal in size of any of them, and amongst the oldest.)

The incident when Martin walked about saying, " I am a man " and " That's my broom " is included here rather than under *Motive of Possession*, since his manner suggested that his momentary claim on the broom was a part of his self-aggrandisement. It was not so much a wish for the broom to be really his, but a phantasy that it was his, part of his phantasy of " being a man ".

I have included here a few incidents that actually had some sort of immediate stimulus, because the response of the child at the time was one which hinted at feelings of inferiority, and an attempt to deal with these by pretending to be grown-up or superior. Paul's comments to Frank's refusing to let him have any plasticine is a case in point (6.3.25).

" Paul told Mrs. I. and said in the tone of a disapproving grown-up, ' I am very disappointed with him. I am very angry with him.' " This is a more subtle

response than direct
anger, and has a priggish note.

Priscilla's attitude when Mrs. I. had not
obeyed her behest
to get her an apple from the tree again
suggested some more
subtle feeling than anger. She seemed to feel
Mrs. I.'s
refusal as an insult, not merely as a denial;
and again we
have a link with feelings of inferiority.

Duncan, again, seemed to be insulted at Dan's
suggestion
that he *could* do anything to anyone so strong
as Duncan ;
and Conrad could not bear the other children
to have any
glimpse of his distress at being physically
hurt. (Conrad
was especially sensitive in this respect.)